

## XIX. DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

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Among the birds from Mombasa, British East Africa, collected by Mr. William Doherty, and recently acquired by the Carnegie Museum,<sup>1</sup> are specimens of two forms which appear to be unnamed. Through the courtesy of Dr. W. J. Holland the following descriptions of these are here presented.

### ***Astur tachiro orienticola*, subsp. nov.**

*Subspecific characters.* — Similar to *Astur tachiro tachiro*, but rather smaller; upper parts lighter, the head and cervix conspicuously paler than the remaining upper parts, the sides of head and neck much lighter still; posterior lower surface paler, with much less of rufous, particularly on flanks and flags.

*Description.* — Type, adult male, No. 7763, Carnegie Museum; Mombasa, British East Africa, September or October, 1900; William Doherty. Pileum and cervix slate-gray, the remaining upper surface slate color, posteriorly with a slight brownish tinge; tail sepia-brown, the outer feathers lighter and rather more rufescent, all the rectrices tipped with buffy white and crossed by four broad blackish bands, and most of them, including the middle pair, with two or three white or whitish spots in the light interspaces of the inner webs; wing-quills fuscous, the basal portions of inner webs white, the inner webs of all but tertials and innermost secondaries barred with blackish or dark brown; sides of head and neck grayish plumbeous; under surface white, posteriorly washed with buff, the chin and upper throat vermiculated with pale grayish, the crissum sparingly and narrowly barred with the same; the rest of the ventral surface including flags conspicuously, regularly, and rather closely, though narrowly, barred with wood-brown, this becoming more rufescent on the sides of the body, where also the bars are wider, and paler and on the lower abdomen where they are narrower and farther apart; lining of wing creamy

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Holland, ANNALS CARNEGIE MUSEUM, III., 1905, pp. 453-463.

white, with scattered and irregular barrings of dull brown. Length of wing, 198; tail, 172; exposed culmen with cere, 22; culmen without cere, 16.5; tarsus, 59; middle toe, 33; middle claw, 12.5; hind claw, 18 mm.

The considerable differences which separate this race from true *Astur tachiro* have already been indicated by Dr. Reichenow.<sup>2</sup> Its range includes probably at least the eastern, or coastal, portion of both British and German East Africa. The original *Astur tachiro*<sup>3</sup> came from southern Africa, as did also the *Nisus polyzonus* of Lesson,<sup>4</sup> so that the present form seems hitherto to have received no name.

### *Cisticola heterophrys*, sp. nov.

*Specific characters.*—Similar to *Cisticola chiniana*, but lacking any well-defined superciliary stripe; upper surface duller and much more uniform, the pileum darker and without trace of dusky streaks, the feathers of back and wings without conspicuously light edges, lower surface not so purely white, and laterally more shaded with grayish.

*Description.*—Type, adult male, No. 8125, Carnegie Museum; Mombasa, British East Africa, September or October, 1900; William Doherty. Pileum uniform rufescent mummy-brown; remainder of upper surface hair-brown, somewhat rufescent on the cervix, the feathers mostly with darker centers which on back and scapulars produce a streaked effect; tail bistre-brown, indistinctly and narrowly barred with dusky; the middle pair of rectrices with a wider subterminal bar of dark brown, the remaining feathers with a broad terminal bar of buff and a subterminal one of black; wings fuscous, the greater, lesser, and median coverts, together with the tertials, edged rather broadly with hair-brown, the greater coverts more rufescent, the primary coverts, primaries, and secondaries margined with chestnut and rufous chestnut; lores and orbital ring dull buff; sides of head dull light brown mixed with buff; sides of neck hair-brown; ventral surface dull white, slightly washed with buffy, the sides of breast and body shaded with gray; thighs rufous; lining of wing buffy white; bill black, the base of mandible whitish.

<sup>2</sup> Vogel Afrikas, I, 1901, p. 552.

<sup>3</sup> *Falco tachiro* Daudin, Traité d'Ornith., II, 1800, p. 90 ("pays d'Auteniquoi").

<sup>4</sup> *Nisus polyzonus* Lesson, Traité d'Ornith., 1831, p. 58 (Cape of Good Hope).

The two specimens of this species, both adult males, in the collection of the Carnegie Museum have been identified as *Cisticola chiniana* by Dr. Reichenow, but they clearly are not *Cisticola chiniana* (Smith),<sup>5</sup> with specimens and the original description of which they have carefully been compared. From *Cisticola subruficapilla*, which, by the way, seems to be a perfectly distinct species, occurring in many localities along with *C. chiniana*, our bird differs much as from *C. chiniana*, and additionally in its decidedly larger size. It is, moreover, in general appearance much more nearly like *Cisticola prinioides*, from which, however, it may easily be distinguished by its paler lower surface, and particularly by its pale lores and eye-ring. It is thus in fact intermediate between the group typified by *Cisticola chiniana* and that composed of *Cisticola prinioides*, *C. neumanni*, and *C. hunteri*.

Measurements of *Cisticola heterophrys* are given herewith:

Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed Culmen.	Tarsus.
Male.	Mombasa, British East Africa. <sup>6</sup>	Sept. or Oct., 1900.	65	57	11.5	23.5
Male.	Mombasa, British East Africa.	Sept. or Oct., 1900.	62	54	13	25

<sup>5</sup> *Drymoica chiniana* Smith, Ill. Zool. S. Afr., 1843, pl. LXXIX. (North of Kurrichaine, Bechuana Land, South Africa.)

<sup>6</sup> Type.